

2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

REQUEST NO.: 114

REQUESTED BY: Pool

DATE REQUESTED: 8/21/17

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REQUEST: Please provide a list of all Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) properties that have been deemed and/or classified with a historic designation.

RESPONSE: Council requested a list of PARC historic properties that may be eligible for funding through Hotel Occupancy Tax under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code, which allows funding to be allocated for “historical restoration and preservation projects or activities or advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to encourage tourists and convention delegates to visit preserved historic sites or museums.” This provision allows for expenditures on historic sites “at or in the immediate vicinity of convention center facilities or visitor information centers; or located elsewhere in the municipality or its vicinity that would be frequented by tourists and convention delegates.”

PARC has identified many historic preservation projects that are allowable expenditures under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code. A list of projects is provided below. As with FY2017, should HOT funding be provided to PARC, the department will develop a spending plan to be shared with City Council. The development of a spending plan allows for the department to evaluate the readiness of projects, confer with partner organizations, ensure legal compliance with state and local statutes, and strive for an equitable distribution of resources.

Following is a list of PARC historic preservation projects that may be eligible for funding:

Project	Amount	Status	Note
Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation	\$4.5 million (not fully funded)	Design process to begin Fall, 2017; additional funding required	Full rehabilitation of historic bathhouse. Barton Springs is Conservancy fundraising for a portion of funding, but additional funding is required.
O. Henry Museum at Brush Square Restoration Phase II	Phase II restoration estimated at \$700,000	Phase I restoration of \$190K beginning Fall, 2017	Initial design phase to begin Fall, 2017 and be followed by Phase I implementation; Phase II is currently unfunded, but could be rolled into Phase I should funding be provided.

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Oakwood Cemetery and Annex Historic Gate Restoration and Fencing Improvements	\$350,000	Unfunded	Includes historic entry gate restoration and replacement of approximately 9,300 linear feet of chain link with historically appropriate fencing. Fulfills goal of Historic Cemetery Master Plan.
Downs Field Grandstands Restoration	Estimated at \$475,000	Unfunded	Includes electrical upgrades, roof replacement, rotten wood replacement, ADA and code upgrades, expanded press box Six Square and Rosewood NA are major non-profit partners.
Elisabet Ney HVAC replacement	Estimated at approx. \$950,000	Unfunded	The museum requires the replacement of the HVAC, which would provide stable interior climate control for the collection and would further allow for the removal of the visible rooftop unit, which negatively impacts the front façade. The 2012 bond funding was insufficient to cover this pressing need.
Elisabet Ney Historic Lodge –Visitor and Education Center	Estimated at \$2.5 million	Unfunded	Historic 1930s Lodge Building at the Ney will become a Visitor and Education Center allowing for ADA-compliant restroom (currently not available) and expanded exhibition space.
Wooldridge Square Plan Implementation	Estimated at approx. \$3.03 million	Unfunded	A preliminary plan for Wooldridge Square was recently developed and envisions accessibility to the historic bandstand, sitework/grading, landscaping and tree planting, new sidewalks, and the expansion of visitor amenities such as site furnishings.
Mayfield Park Historic Gardens Restoration	Estimated at approx. \$500,000	Unfunded	2016 Landscape Treatment Plan to restore and rehabilitate historic gardens is currently unfunded; accessibility upgrades throughout property needed.
Norwood House Rehabilitation	\$5-7 million total	Partially funded	PARD is supporting efforts of Norwood Park Conservancy. Project includes rehabilitation of 1800 sq. ft. historic house with flexible floor plan; new terrace behind the house; restored gardens; new accessory structures to support operations and historic civic asset.

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Seaholm Intake Building Rehabilitation	Estimated at approx. \$9-12 million	Unfunded	Historic industrial waterfront building will be transformed into civic asset. Planning underway.
Pease Park Tudor Cottage Restoration	Estimated at \$1.5 million	Unfunded	PARD is supporting efforts of Pease Park Conservancy to adaptively reuse the historic 1920s Tutor Cottage restroom building, which will activate the historic building for community and visitor use.
Umlauf Sculpture Gardens—Charles and Angeline Umlauf House and Studio Rehabilitation	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	PARD is supporting efforts of Umlauf Sculpture Gardens in development of master plan to restore historic Umlauf Home and Studio.
Shoal Creek Rehabilitation Projects	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	PARD supporting efforts of Shoal Creek Conservancy, which is undertaking a number of projects including historic 6 th Street Bridge rehabilitation and restoration of historic railroad trestle over Shoal Creek.
Waller Creek Rehabilitation Projects	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	PARD is supporting efforts of Waller Creek Conservancy, which is undertaking a number of historic preservation projects including rehabilitation of Palm Park Shelter House and improvements to Symphony Square.
Zilker Botanical Garden	Additional work is needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	The Zilker Botanical Gardens will soon undergo a master planning process. The plan will result in rehabilitation and improvements to the historic gardens and buildings.
Zilker Clubhouse	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	Historic building requires full restoration, HVAC installation, ADA upgrades and interpretative signage.

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Zilker Metropolitan Park	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	The park's historic features, such as small scale buildings such as the Concession Building and Pistol Range, New Deal-era picnic tables and historic walls are in a deteriorated condition and require restoration.
Eliza Springs Historic Structure	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	The recent Eliza Springs Daylighting Project led by Watershed Protection addressed improvements to endangered salamander habitat; however the historic structure is in extremely deteriorated condition and requires rehabilitation as recommended in Barton Springs Master Plan.
Sunken Gardens at Barton Springs Historic Structure	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	The historic structure is in extremely deteriorated condition and requires rehabilitation as recommended in Barton Springs Master Plan.
Congress Avenue Old Bakery and Emporium Congress Rehabilitation	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	Masonry cleaning/repointing, stucco and concrete repairs and restoration of interior finishes. Recent evidence of rising damp has caused concern that the building may require additional assessment and potential waterproofing intervention.
Fiesta Gardens	Additional work needed to estimate cost	Unfunded	Fiesta Gardens is in need of full renovation. The 1960s complex has recently become eligible for review as a designated historic resource. The complex hosts numerous festivals each year and plays a strong role in the tourism infrastructure of our city.

Update on FY2017 HOT Spending Plan:

Last year, Council allocated \$993,841 and PARD developed a spending plan that contributed to a number of projects.

Project	Amount	Status	Note
O. Henry Museum Porch Repair	\$15,000	Completed in Spring, 2017	Emergency repair for porch roof

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Elisabet Ney Historic Wall and Gate Restoration	\$25,000	Completion projected for Fall, 2017	HOT funding coupled with Heritage Grant funding allowed for full restoration
Mayfield Historic Garden Shed Restoration/ Historic Wall/Masonry Repair	\$80,000	Completion projected for Spring, 2018	Historic preservation permitting underway
Oakwood Chapel Historic Restoration	\$319,000	Completion projected for Summer, 2018 (9 month delay due to archeological issues)	2012 GO Bond funded project that required additional funding
Elisabet Ney Window, Door & Masonry Restoration	\$364,701	Completion projected for Spring, 2019	2012 GO Bond funded project that required additional funding
O. Henry Museum Restoration Phase I incl. HVAC installation	\$190,000	Completion projected for 2019	Initial design phase to begin Fall, 2017 and be followed by Phase I implementation

Additionally, PARD was granted \$5,370 to be used for “paying for advertising, solicitations, and promotions that attract tourists and convention delegates for the city or its vicinity.” PARD was able to re-print copies of its History, Arts & Culture Guide, which is a concise brochure for Austin’s tourists that provides an overview of accessible PARD programming, facilities, and events. The publication highlights cultural amenities such as the diverse exhibits on display at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and Brush Square Museums. It also provides guidance to accessing Austin’s popular parks and trails. Finally, it highlights the diversity of authentic Austin recreational experiences available within the City of Austin’s park system. With the funding allotted for FY16-17, the Department revised the Guide and distributed 45,000 copies to 110 hotels and as well as Texas Travel Centers throughout the state. **Unfortunately, the funding allowed for a 6 month supply of the brochures and additional funding will be needed to continue to meet the demand.**

Additional HOT Funding Opportunities:

It should be noted that there are additional HOT statutes that may allow for funding to be directed to PARD:

- “Funding the establishment, improvement, or maintenance of a convention center or visitor information centers.” PARD’s Old Bakery and Emporium and a future visitor facility at Barton Springs/Zilker Park may be eligible for capital and operational funding under this statute.
- “Paying for advertising, solicitations and promotions that attract tourists and convention delegates to the city or its vicinity.” As demonstrated in FY17, PARD has marketing needs that could be funded under the statute that allows for “paying for advertising, solicitations, and promotions that attract tourists and convention delegates for the city or its vicinity.”

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- “Signage directing tourists to sights and attractions that are visited frequently by hotel guests in the municipality.” PARD has a number of parks and facilities in areas frequented by tourists. Wayfinding and interpretive signage is needed, yet unfunded, in downtown squares and facilities, Zilker Metropolitan Park and attractions such as Mayfield Park, Downs Field, Mt. Bonnell, Waller Creek, Shoal Creek, and Pease Park.

In closing, PARD greatly appreciates the City Council’s acknowledgement of the strong role we play in Austin’s tourism, convention and hotel industry. HOT revenue is an important tool for the promotion of tourism and supports the growth of the tourism, convention and hotel industry. PARD is an important partner in this effort as public parks, museums, and cultural centers are among the top tourist attractions in the city

We look forward to continuing the conversation about how PARD can further work to support the industry, which brings significant economic impact to our city.